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SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL ETRD BR

SUBJECT: BRAZIL: AMBASSADORIAL MUSICAL CHAIRS

¶1. (U) At the halfway mark of the Lula administration, President Lula and Foreign Minister Celso Amorim have decided on key Ambassadorial changes, principally in Europe. Several of the high profile Ambassadors had been appointed to their present positions by former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

¶2. (U) In Paris former Minister of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Sergio Amaral, will turn over the embassy to Ministry of External Relations (MRE) Under-Secretary for Political Affairs Vera Pedrosa, while in Rome ex-President Itamar Franco will be replaced by the head of Brazil's WTO Mission in Geneva, Luiz Felipe de Seixas Correa -- assuming the GOB is unsuccessful in its quest to place Seixas Correa as WTO Director General. Although critical of then Presidential candidate Lula in 2002, then-Minister Amaral had been the beneficiary of an agreement between outgoing President Cardoso and the newly elected Lula to remain in Paris for two years. A career diplomat, he likely will move to Tokyo to succeed current Ambassador to Japan Ivan Canabrava, a former MRE Under-Secretary for Political Affairs who is slated for posting to Berlin. Vera Pedrosa, the highest ranking woman in Brazil's Foreign Service, would stay in Paris only until 2006 when she reaches the mandatory GOB retirement age.

¶3. (U) Current MRE Under-Secretary for Economic and Technology Affairs Clodoaldo Hugueney Filho, a strong advocate of building ties among developing countries during the WTO Doha Round, will replace Seixas Correa in Geneva. And from Berlin, Ambassador Jose Artur Denot Medeiros will return to Brasilia after completing the maximum ten straight years abroad allowed by MRE. He will assume one of the Under-Secretary vacancies opened up by the departures of Pedrosa and Hugueney.

¶4. (SBU) Two other important Ambassadorial changes had already been announced. Former Defense Minister and seasoned diplomat Jose Viegas will head to Madrid, while Ambassador Osmar Chohfi departs Spain to head Brazil's Mission to the OAS in Washington. Prior to going to Madrid, Viegas was tasked by President Lula to complete negotiation with the USG for revisions to the 2000 bilateral Technical Safeguards Agreement for the Alcantara space launch facility, which has not been ratified by the Brazilian Congress.

Chicola